

Claims

1. [cancelled]
2. [cancelled]
3. A method for depigmentation of human skin comprising the application of a cosmetic composition to said skin, wherein said composition comprises a depigmenting effective amount of an extract of *Bellis perennis L.*
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the composition is a cream, an ointment, an emulsion (milk), a tonic (lotion), stick, dispersion, a formulation comprising a tenside, a solution or a gel.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein the composition comprises at least one additional depigmentation agent, anti-inflammatory agent or antioxidant.
6. The method of claim 3, wherein the composition comprises about 1% (w/w) to about 10% (w/w) extract of *Bellis perennis L.*
7. The method of claim 3 for the prevention, treatment or amelioration of hyperpigmentation selected from pigmented spots, lentigo senilis, freckles, ephelides, post inflammatory hyperpigmentation, pigmented keratosis, melasma and chloasma and hypopigmentation selected from vitiligo, piebaldism and leucoderma due to cicatrisation.
8. A process for the preparation of an extract of *Bellis perennis L.* comprising, maceration, percolation, decoction, soxleth extraction or digestion with an extraction medium selected from water, aqueous buffer, alcohols, alcohol water mixtures, glycols and glycol water mixtures, preferably selected from Dulbecco's phosphate buffer pH 7.2 (containing 8000 mg sodium chloride, 2000 mg potassium chloride, 1150 mg disodium hydrogenphosphate, 200 mg dipotassium phosphate per liter), or Sörensen phosphate buffer having a pH between about 5.0 and 8.0, preferably pH 5.0 (containing 0.06M potassium phosphate and 0.06M disodium

phosphate) or citric acid buffers preferably selected from Sørensen citrate buffer, having a pH between about 1.2 and 5.0, preferably pH 3.0 (containing 0.1M sodium citrate and 0.1M HCl), preferably at elevated temperatures.

9. The process according to claim 8, whereby the process comprises decoction with a buffer selected from Dulbecco's phosphate buffer pH 7.2, Sørensen phosphate buffer pH 5.0 and Sørensen citrate buffer pH 3 at elevated temperatures, preferably at 100°C for 1h.

10. An extract of *Bellis perennis* L. made by the process according to claim.

11. A cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition comprising an extract of *Bellis perennis* L. according to claim 10.

12. The extract of claim 10, wherein the extract is prepared from fresh plant material.

13. The extract of claim 10, wherein the extract is prepared from the whole plant of *Bellis perennis* L..

14. The extract of claim 10, wherein the extract is prepared from the flower heads of *Bellis perennis* L..

15. The extract of claim 10, wherein the extract is prepared from dried plant material.

16. The method of claim 3, wherein the composition comprises from about 2% (w/w) to about 5% (w/w) of extract of *Bellis perennis* L..

17. The method of claim 3, wherein the composition comprises about 3% (w/w) of extract of *Bellis perennis* L..

18. A method of preparation of a pharmaceutical composition suitable for treating or preventing acquired or inherent hyperpigmentation comprising

- a) providing an extract of *Bellis perennis L.*; and
- b) formulating the extract in a cosmetical or pharmaceutical formulation selected from the group consisting of O/W and W/O creams, O/W and W/O emulsions, gels, multiple emulsions (W/O/W and O/W/O), cosmetic dispersions (hydrodispersions and lipodispersions), sticks, and formulations comprising a tenside or simple solutions (oily or aqueous).